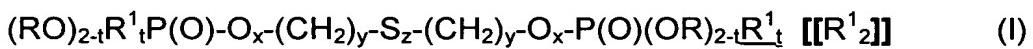


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound corresponding to the formula:



in which:

- R represents a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aryl, a trialkylsilyl, a trialkylamino or an alkali metal;
- R<sup>1</sup> represents an alkyl or an aryl;
- x is 0 or 1;
- y is an integer from 1 to 22;
- z ≥ 3;
- t is 0 or 1.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is trialkylsilyl group R'<sub>3</sub>Si- in which the R' substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Presently Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is a trialkylamino group  $R''_3N$ - in which the  $R''$  substituents represent identical or different alkyl groups having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is an alkali metal selected from the group consisting of Na and K.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $x = 0$ .

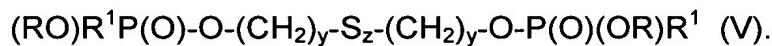
Claim 7 (Presently Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula  
 $(RO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OR)_2$  (II).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The compound as claimed in claim 6, corresponding to the formula  
 $(RO)R^1P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OR)R^1 [[R']]$  (IV).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $x = 1$ .

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula  
 $(RO)_2P(O)-O-(CH_2)_y-S_z-(CH_2)_y-O-P(O)(OR)_2$  (III).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 9, corresponding to the formula



Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein z is on average equal to 4.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms or an aryl radical chosen from the phenyl, benzyl or tolyl radicals.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein y is an integer from 2 to 4.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A composite material comprising an elastomeric matrix and an inorganic filler, wherein the material comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1 as a coupling agent.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is an oxide, a hydroxide, a carbonate or a silicoaluminate.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The material as claimed in claim 15, wherein the inorganic filler is a metallic material selected from the group consisting of steels, aluminum and copper.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is an alkyl Ra and z = 4, wherein:

- during a first stage, the trialkoxyphosphonate P(ORa)<sub>3</sub> (VI) is reacted with the dibromoalkane Br-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-Br (VII) ~~at a temperature of the order of 140°C in order to obtain~~ Br-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-P(O)(ORa)<sub>2</sub> (VIII),
- during a second stage, the phosphonate Br-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-P(O)(ORa)<sub>2</sub> (VIII) is reacted with Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> under reflux of the methanol in order to obtain the compound (RaO)<sub>2</sub>P(O)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-S<sub>4</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-P(O)(ORa)<sub>2</sub> (IIa).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which each of the R groups is a trialkylsilyl R'<sub>3</sub>Si-, comprising reacting the compound (RaO)<sub>2</sub>P(O)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-S<sub>4</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-P(O)(ORa)<sub>2</sub> (IIa) with a trialkylsilyl bromide R'<sub>3</sub>SiBr in a 1/4 molar ratio in order to obtain the compound (IIb) (R'<sub>3</sub>SiO)<sub>2</sub>P(O)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-S<sub>4</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-P(O)(OSiR'<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 7 in which R is H, comprising hydrolyzing a compound  $(Ra)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(ORa)_2$  in which Ra is an alkyl or hydrolyzing or alcoholyzing a compound  $(R'_3SiO)_2P(O)-(CH_2)_y-S_4-(CH_2)_y-P(O)(OSiR'_3)_2$ .

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 10 in which R represents H, wherein:

- during a first stage,  $P(O)Cl_3$  is reacted with  $HO(CH_2)_yCl$  in stoichiometric proportions in order to obtain the compound  $Cl(CH_2)_yOP(O)Cl_2$ ;
- during a second stage, the compound  $Cl(CH_2)_yOP(O)Cl_2$  is hydrolyzed in order to obtain the compound  $Cl(CH_2)_yOPO_3H_2$ ;
- during a third stage,  $Cl(CH_2)_yOPO_3H_2$  is reacted with  $Na_2S_4$  under reflux of the methanol and then an ion exchange is carried out in order to obtain the compound

$(HO)_2P(O)-O-(CH_2)_y-S_z-[(CH_2)](CH_2)_y-O-P(O)(OH)_2$ .

Claim 22 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $t = 1$ .

Claim 23 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $t = 2$ .

Claim 24 (New): The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein during the first stage, the trialkoxyphosphonate  $P(ORa)_3$  (VI) is reacted with the dibromoalkane  $Br-(CH_2)_y-Br$  (VII) at a temperature of about  $140^\circ C$ .